

URBAN LANDSCAPE COMMISSION

MINUTES (DRAFT)

September 25, 2013

City Council Chambers, 389 Spruce Street

DRAFT

Meeting called to order 4:36pm. Chair tables the reading and approval of the minutes.

Attendees: Michael Hasenmyer, ULC; Steve McBride, ULC; Andrea Soccorsi, Jerome Park; Jack Klein, Jerome Park; Rebekah Harlan, Jerome Park; Sara Bennett, Jerome Park; Scott Bennett (Boy Scout), Jerome Park; Jerry Steketee, ULC; Joseph Scotti, ULC; Cindy Fike, ULC; Kitty Lozier, ULC; Joe Dobrzanski, WVU student; Mark Wise, BOPARC/ULC; Kara Hurst, ULC, Bill MacDonald, ULC; Marchetta Maupin, ULC; Mike Fike, City Council

NEW BUSINESS

Chair introduces guests from the Jerome Park Neighborhood Association (JPNA). Rebecca H. gives a brief introduction of the goals of the project. They would like to create useable greenspace from a poorly maintained but well-used and utilized park. The JPNA would like to remove the prominent Norway spruce trees and the existing Mayfield Park sign from the corner informal entrance to the park. The full basketball court would be divided in half allowing other uses on the other half. Walking trails will ring the park. A community garden will be created along Mineral Ave. so flowers are visible from the street. Pavers along the walkways can be purchased and engraved in memory of loved ones. JPNA representatives describe a memorial garden that will be placed at the informal entrance to the park to be named the "Rev. Mary Morgan Memorial Garden."

The BOPARC representative interjects that the memorial garden is the subject before the ULC this evening.

Input from several Urban Landscape Commission (ULC) commissioners included best design practices for contemplative gardens, perimeter walking trails, safety of gardens along busy roads. Some concern was expressed by ULC commissioners regarding the future maintenance of the gardens. JPNA states the garden will be primarily perennials requiring very little maintenance. BOPARC has been mowing and weeding and their involvement will continue to be limited to this. JPNA member's stress that the corner is the entry point is their choice for the memorial garden but that the concept plan as presented is a work in progress.

ULC commissioner questions the naming policy for the garden, the pavilion and the park. JPNA members state that the Mayfield (founding president for JPNA circa 1970) will continue by naming the Mayfield Pavilion. BOPARC representative states that the original owners of the property stipulated in the transferal of the deed to the City of Morgantown that the property be known as the Paul Preserve.

BOPARC representative states that the JPNA would really like to have ideas about hardscape materials and plant materials for the memorial gardens.

ULC Staffer asks whether it is the intent of the master plan to cut any trees down other than those at the corner. ULC Staffer states that trees perform well as noise buffers and suggests that the corner spruce trees remain for this purpose. ULC Staffer expresses concern that the gardens along the busy Mineral road would be a hazard for those working to maintain the plants and soil. City Council Rep suggests keeping the trees, moving the garden to the interior including a currently popular labyrinth in the design. ULC Staffer points out that any removal of trees on City property requires input from the Tree Board. JPNA members state that JPNA is dead-set on the removal of the trees. ULC commissioner inquires about plans for the future signage. BOPARC representative states that the signs will be identical to those in other parks and will be placed according to ULC and JPNA wishes.

JPNA members express frustration that their master plan is being rejected by the ULC with no alternatives being provided. ULC commissioner points out that it is not the mission of the ULC to provide alternatives. BOPARC representative states that the master plan was intended to be conceptual only. ULC commissioner volunteers to work with JPNA to develop some simulations to ease the envisioning of design alternatives.

City Council representative announces that the Suncrest Kiwanis Club has \$30,000 earmarked for the playground only. JPNA members state their incorporation and their intention to begin soliciting funds from Sabraton area business for the park. ULC Staffer shares correspondence with a family group from the San Francisco CA area describing their interest in donating time and materials for a playground in the Morgantown WV area. This information is passed along to the BOPARC representative. The Tree Board will evaluate the existing trees at the site and will make a recommendation to the ULC, BOPARC, and the JPNA.

ULC Chair formally welcomes Cindy Fike and Joseph Scotti to the ULC and welcomes Nancy Ganz as the City Council representative.

ULC Chair introduces discussion of the future meeting schedules. There is nothing written in the by-laws that require a monthly meeting. Chair suggests we meet every other month. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lozier proposed in a motion that the ULC meet every other month beginning in 2014. Commissioner Scotti seconded. Chair asked for a voice vote. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Michael Biafore and staff have informally surveyed users of the Public Safety Building Plaza. They have also mapped movements to evaluate the usage of the space preparatory to a design plan for the space including the Z. Morgan bronze statue and public art space.

ULC Chair reminded commissioners that they were sent the MS-Powerpoint presentation given by Margaret Stout at the last ULC meeting. ULC Chair encouraged commissioners to look at the changes to the ULC website hosted by the City of Morgantown.

BOPARC REPORT

BOPARC representatives states that the discussion with the JPNA was his report and excuses himself.

PROJECTS REPORT

ULC Staffer describes several ongoing seasonal maintenance projects. Baskets will be maintained at least until after the September 28th WVU home football game. ULC Staffer requested specific discussion by

ULC commissioner's concerning a request from the staff of the Morgantown Public Library (MPL). ULC Staffer circulated pictures of the grounds of the Aull Center adjacent to the MPL and a letter from MPL administration requesting that the ULC add the grounds to its list of projects. Discussion included misuse of the property by loiterers along Wall Street and along the Sadie Crow Mini-park. Commissioner MacDonald made a motion that the ULC take on this area as a project. Commissioner Steketee seconded. ULC Chair asked for a voice vote. Motion carried.

Tree Board ULC Chair reminded commissioner that Arbor Day is October 12 and that trees will be planted in front of the Morgantown Public Library. As part of the Year of the Tree, members of the Tree Board, in cooperation with the Green Team, will be providing a pruning demonstration and informational talk.

ULC Chair stated that in future ULC meetings she will be soliciting a report from the City Council Representative regarding discussions in City Council concerning ULC.

Some discussion took place regarding the site for ULC meetings. Informal approval was given for the city council chambers over the Public Safety Building conference room. ULC Chair announces the next meeting will be October 23rd, 2013 in council chambers.

Next Meeting will be held October 23, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. in the Public Safety Building, Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned 6:26pm.